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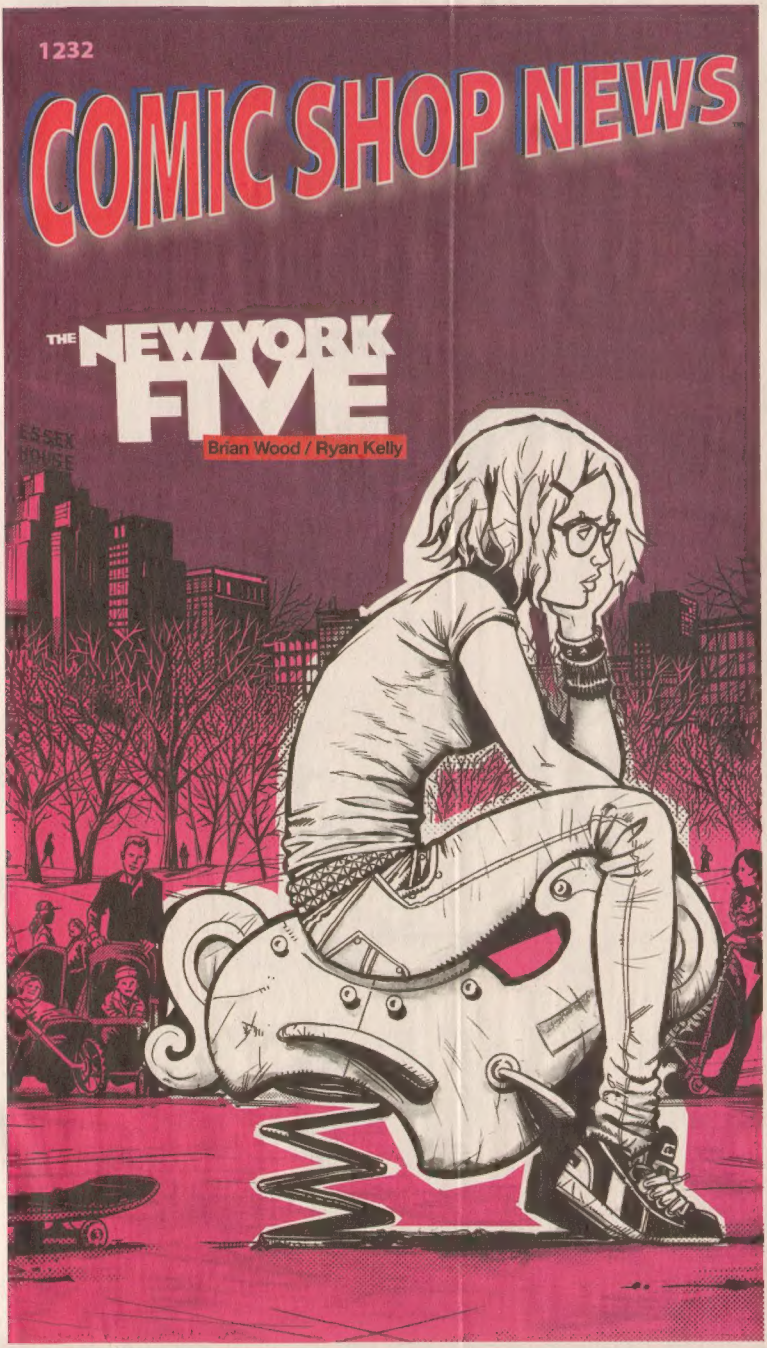
COMIC SHOP NEWS



New York Four Plus One More!

Two and a half years ago, *Brian Wood* and *Ryan Kelly* introduced readers to Riley and her NYC experiences in the Minx graphic novel ***The New York Four***. Skip ahead to 2011, and Riley and her friends are back in a sequel, ***The New York Five***... but things have changed.

For one thing, the Minx line is gone, so the sequel is appearing under the Vertigo imprint. Second, this is a limited series, not a graphic novel. Those differences notwithstanding, ***The New York Five*** presents another character-driven, evocative look at life in the Big Apple as experienced by a group of engaging, memorable female protagonists.

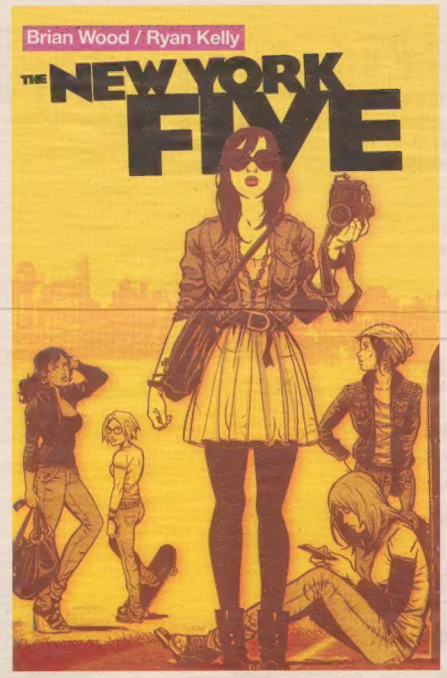
The New York Five offers Wood and Kelly an opportunity to zoom out, taking a broader look at the lives of their entire ensemble cast. "In ***The New York Four***, the focus of the story was really on one of the girls, Riley," Wood said. "However, in ***The New York Five***, I expand that and focus on the remaining characters and their stories that were only subplots in the first volume. ***Five*** takes us through the end of freshman year, and it's a real trial by fire for all of them: the naivete is gone and the classic sort of 'New York toughness' has kicked in. The biggest thing about ***Five*** is, literally, the introduction of a fifth character and her fate and how it draws the group even closer together.

"Riley's story continues, and with it Angie and Frank—but the others get equal screen time in the sequel. The fifth member of the group is a new girl named Olive, who is both an outsider and, at times, a close confidant."

Is ***The New York Five*** constructed as a self-contained story? Will the miniseries bring readers "up to speed" on the original graphic novel prior to moving forward with its new story? "Well, I hope people can actually read ***The New York Four*** first... and that's not just the capitalist in me talking!" Wood said with a laugh. "***Five*** is really a continuation of the story, and while we're putting in a pretty decent recap page in the first issue, there are a lot of characters and they each have their own story arcs, so there is no substitute for reading the first book.

"For those who haven't read it, here's a little info about ***The New York Four***: really broadly, it is a young-ish adult story about four girls starting college at NYU in New York City, working and eventually living together. They each have their own problems and dramas, but as the time passes it becomes clear that they are all 'in it' together—'it' being the stressful whirlwind of being young women struggling in a city as complex as New York."

Wood has always been skillful at depicting female protagonists; what's his secret? "I don't know," Wood said. "I *do* enjoy writing something that is so sorely needed and for a demographic that is traditionally underserved in comics—but as to the 'how,' I tend to just write them as people and try not to think about the gender. I know that sounds a little pat, but its the truth. I think it helps me avoid some stereotyping."



Readers who are only familiar with Wood's work on darker projects like ***DMZ*** and ***Northlanders*** might be surprised to see the writer working on a young-adult series focused on a group of young women, but Wood points out that they really shouldn't be. "I agree that these books of mine are pretty far removed from ***DMZ*** and ***Northlanders***," Wood said. "Actually, they're much more like my 'indie' books, ***Demo***, ***Local***, and to a degree, ***Supermarket***."

How did Wood end up writing a series that was part young adult drama, part coming-of-age novel, part adventure, and part mystery. How did it come about? "Pretty simply: I was asked to come up with a New York-centric book for the Minx line at DC," Wood said. I like young adult novels, both as a youth and as an adult, and nothing makes me happier than kids who read. I felt like if I could contribute to that, even in some minuscule way, I should. And like I said, its not that far removed from ***Demo*** and ***Local***—and ***Demo*** has won awards in that category and been on Young Adult library lists."

The New York Five was originally envisioned as a Minx graphic novel sequel to the original tale. When the Minx line was cancelled, did Wood think that ***Five*** might never see print? "Well, when Minx ended we had already signed contracts to do the sequel book," Wood explained. "It would have been easy for DC just to cancel it—but to their credit they figured out a way for us to continue and get at least one more book out there. It took longer than I thought, but here we are!"

The New York Four had a graphic novel's structure and flow; was that the case with ***The New York Five*** originally as well? If so, did Wood have to rework ***Five*** to make it function as a limited series? "I did have to do some reworking, and it was challenging," Wood said, "but luckily, it was early enough in the process that it wasn't a huge obstacle. ***Four*** was separated by chapter breaks anyway, so with ***Five*** I just had to make the chapters a uniform length and make sure there were little cliffhanger-type scenes to end each one on."

The New York Five seems like a sort of odd fit for Vertigo, which is usually known for edgier, more adult content. Will ***Five*** have the same young adult focus as ***Four***, or will the tone change with the new publisher? It's kind of an odd fit, but since I am so established at Vertigo, it made more sense to do the book there than for it to have a DC logo and not really fit there," Wood said. " But yeah, ***Five*** is *not* a mature readers book. It may have a slight increase in maturity, but more in a complexity-of-story way and not a swearing-and-nudity way. It's still firmly a young adult book, and readers of ***Four*** will likely not feel any difference."

Are Wood and artist *Ryan Kelly* ready for ***The New York Six*** if this series merits a sequel? "If it merits it, sure!" Wood said. "But either way, Ryan Kelly and I work so well together that we'll find *something* new to do after this!"

New York Five #1, a $2.99 32-page black and white Vertigo title published with no interior ads, is scheduled for release this week; subsequent issues will follow on a monthly schedule.

by Cliff Biggers

Sea Ghost Features Spirited Adventure

Some creators specialize in cosmic drama; others focus on dark antiheroic urban adventure; still others prefer historical tales.

Jay Piscopo is a man with the sea in his creative soul.

"When I was a kid, jetpacks and rayguns were a sign of the future," Piscopo said. "Underwater cities were a sign for m, too. I think the ocean is a great setting for science fiction and action and adventure in general. In modern times with all our technological advances, we take for granted that much of our own ocean is unexplored—there is no need to go to alien worlds, because we already live on one!"

Piscopo has already ventured into the realm of undersea adventure with his ***Jonny Quest***-like ***Undersea Adventures of Capt'n Eli*** graphic novels–and later this spring, he takes readers beneath the waves again with his heroic adventure ***Sea Ghost***.

Whereas ***Capt'n Eli*** has a ***Jonny Quest*** look and feel, ***Sea Ghost*** seems to have a major ***Space Ghost*** vibe. Is that an intentional homage in this case? "Yes, very intentional," Piscopo said. "Space Ghost is one of those iconic character designs you can't forget... I always wanted to create an homage to the character and really flesh out a personality—unlike the cartoons, which were straight action pieces with very little character development.

A GOD CREATING AN ENDLESS WAR?
THAT IS HUSAMI.
ENOUGH TALK, MY QUEEN!
HE IS THE ENEMY AND MUST BE EXTERMINATED
ZZZZZZ
OK. I THINK THAT IS JUST ABOUT ENOUGH!
SSKKRIIIPPP!

"The Sea Ghost has a big back story, too. During WWII he was the ally of another Capt'n Eli spinoff character, Commander X, and had another identity, the Sea Raider. In fact, there are some stories featuring Sea Raider on the Capt'n Eli website as well as in the graphic novels."

"Sea Ghost's legacy is so huge, it's almost impossible to fit it all in one book! So, rather than go into a big origin story, I thought it would be cool to produce a one shot that read like a single issue taken randomly from a long run of a series—very similar to how a lot of us used to experience comics on the newsstand. It wasn't essential to pick up a series at the beginning --
the editors

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

knew that even though the issue was a part of a long run, for many readers it would be their 'first issue.'

"With that in mind, the story opens up on the Sea Ghost in his secret headquarters with his kids Coral and Triton. (Capt'n Eli readers will recognize these characters from the main story.) Commander X warns Sea Ghost of a strange anomaly, and the Sea Ghost then becomes transported to an alien world that has been at war for eons. He becomes embroiled in the conflict between the underwater race, the Phlan, and the monkey-like Simas. Lots of action, weird gadgets and monsters show up as Sea Ghost solves the mystery of why this strange world is in eternal conflict."

One look at ***Capt'n Eli*** or ***Sea Ghost*** makes it obvious that Piscopo is very influenced by 1960s animation. What made the cartoons of that era so memorable for the artist, and how much does he consciously derive from the animation of that period? "I think my first exposure to superheroes came through Hanna-Barbera cartoons, even before comic books. ***Herculoids*** and ***Space Ghost*** and ***Mighty Samson*** and ***Jonny Quest*** made permanent impressions on me. Besides the art and action, I think it was the science fiction elements that really made these cartoons memorable.

"Several years ago I found the book, ***Alex Toth by Design*** by Toth's fellow Hanna-Barbera designer, *Darrell McNeil*. There are tons of Toth's designs for all the action adventure superhero cartoons that HB produced in the 60s and 70s. It really made a huge impact on me and when the time came to create Capt'n Eli's and Sea Ghost's universes, I wanted to give the feeling that Capt'n Eli and Sea Ghost were a kind of lost Hanna-Barbera project.

Piscopo's art style—both his character art and his vibrant background style—resemble animation cels; how does he get that look? "In the case of ***Capt'n Eli***, the backgrounds are actual 3D CGI integrated with 2D; I think that really pushes the animated look. The backgrounds in ***Sea Ghost*** are hand drawn on the computer but I'm very conscious of color and trying to give that animated feel. I have a background as an animator and have always loved the color and clarity that comes with animation design, and I've wanted to see this design applied more in comics."

Is ***Sea Ghost #1*** the first book in an envisioned series, or will it stand as a oneshot for the time being? "It's a oneshot for now, but who knows—if fans want more, I'd love to make more!"

Meanwhile, Piscopo is already at work on his next project. ***"The Undersea Adventures of Capt'n Eli Volume 3*** will be out this year as well as some other projects I'm working on for Nemo Publishing. One is a book with a bunch of redesigned public domain characters, and the other is a science fiction anthology.

"I also just started work coloring ***The Spider*** bi-monthly by Moonstone and creating a one shot with writer *Martin Powell* for Moonstone that's also drawn in an animated style. It's the first-ever team-up of The Spider, Operator 5, and G-8, called ***The Spider: Curse of the Unholy 3***, and I can't wait for this one!"

Sea Ghost #1 is slated for March release from Nemo Publishing.

by Cliff Biggers

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Alonso Becomes Marvel's Newest EIC

Axel Alonso, a veteran member of Marvel's editorial team, will soon be the man responsible for the entire Marvel Universe: Alonso has been promoted to Editor-in-Chief, Marvel Entertainment, where he will report directly to Marvel's publisher and president *Dan Buckley*. Alonso will oversee all day to day aspects of Marvel's Publishing division, including advising on the editorial creative direction, developing new storylines and brainstorming new initiatives. Additionally, Mr. Alonso will work on creative aspects of development of larger corporate initiatives involving Marvel's popular library of characters.

"It's with tremendous pride that I announce Axel Alonso's promotion to Editor-In-Chief," *Joe Quesada* said. "For over a decade, Axel's been instrumental in bringing fresh new voices to Marvel and reinventing our biggest characters like Spider-Man, the X-Men, Wolverine and so many more. He's fought to create unique imprints like Marvel MAX while also bringing fresh new voices to the Marvel family.

"Most of you know Axel from his high profile job as Vice President, Executive Editor and the man behind some of our very best and edgiest books. Time and time again, Axel has proven that he is one of the very best story editors in the history of our medium and one of the finest people I know. And, like everyone here at Marvel, he has one single focus, bringing you the best stories with the best characters in all of comicdom. That's why I have no doubt that Axel will bring Marvel Comics to greater heights than it's ever known!"

Alonso joined Marvel in 2000 as a senior editor, and was promoted to Vice President, Executive Editor last year. "Marvel has a great history of the most dynamic and memorable EiCs in comics history and I'm honored to step into this role," Alonso said. "I've been blessed to work with some of the most creative men and women in the world, bringing to life some of the most compelling stories you'll find in any medium. This new role provides me with exciting challenges and prospects I've never encountered before, but I know one thing-Marvel's getting even bigger in 2011."

So what about *Joe Quesada*, Marvel's prior Editor-in-Chief? He's now the Chief Creative Officer of Marvel Entertainment, where he will oversee Marvel's creative endeavors in film, television, publishing, digital and more, further strengthening the Marvel brand.

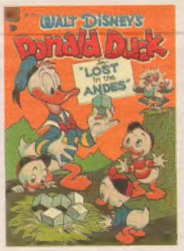
No word yet on any plans Alonso in the works—but as soon as they're revealed, you'll hear about 'em in *CSN!*

CSNsider

•Great news for Superman fans: this spring, the Man of Steel returns to the title that first introduced him to the world! ***Action Comics #800*** features a fifty-page lead story by *Paul Cornell & Pete Woods*, along with short stories by other soon-to-be-revealed major names. As for the cover—well, none other than *David Finch* supplies the cover image for this landmark issue! Look for it in April!

•***Flex Mentallo,*** the ***Doom Patrol*** spinoff by *Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely* that has been almost impossible to find since its four-issue miniseries publication more than a decade and a half ago, is returning to print later this year! The four-parter will be collected in a deluxe edition hardcover, complete with bonus materials, this fall.

•Fantagraphics has landed the rights to publish a definitive collection of the great *Carl Barks'* entire run of ***Donald Duck*** and ***Uncle Scrooge*** stories in a twice-a-year hardcover series that is estimated to total approximately thirty volumes. According to an exclusive conversation with the Robot 6 website, Fantagraphics publisher *Gary Groth* plans to publish the books in fully restored color designed to match the palette of the original publications; each volume will be about 90% the size of the original comics, and the books will be affordably priced at $24.99. The first volume, which reprints Barks' 1948 masterpiece "Lost in the Andes," which first appeared in Dell's ***Four Color #223***; later volumes will fill in the gaps between Barks' 1942 Duck debut and that landmark adventure; from there, the series will continue until every Barks page is reprinted.

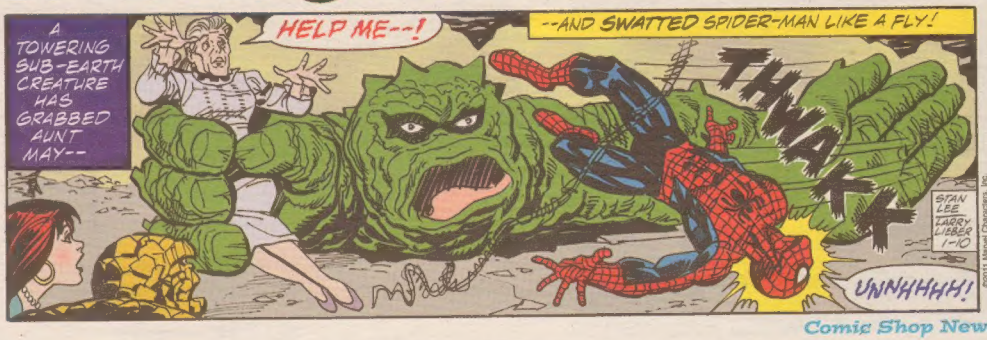


•*Peter Milligan* has been tapped to write the ***Red Lantern Corps*** series focusing on the anger-driven ring-wielders. Discussing the series (which will debut later this year) on DC's blog The Source, Milligan explained, "Everybody who has read Green Lantern and its associated books for any time probably knows why Atrocitus is angry. His entire race was almost wiped out by marauding Manhunters. But after *Geoff Johns* asked if I was interested in writing ***The Red Lantern Corps***, I started thinking about Atrocitus and his anger. Because it's not just anger. It is *rage*. A crimson red rage that still consumes him after all this time. And when you think about it, the Manhunter massacre happened an awful long time ago. Eons ago. Okay, you'd never get over something like that. But Atrocitus' rage...it hasn't weakened. It is just as immense and awesome as it was all those centuries ago. I wanted to know why. I wanted to know how.

"In the first storyline of ***The Red Lantern Corps*** we look for an answer to these questions. And the answer lies in part on the far side of the prison planet Ysmault. It is here where we'll see why and how the rage of Atrocitus is just as all-consuming as it ever was..."

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


A TOWERING SUB-EARTH CREATURE HAS GRABBED AUNT MAY--
HELP ME--!
--AND SWATTED SPIDER-MAN LIKE A FLY!
THWAP!
UNNHHHH!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 1-10
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EDITORS
Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

CSN TOP COMICS: FEBRUARY

BATMAN INCORPORATED #4

Grant Morrison (W); Yanick Paquette (A)
(DC DEC100192 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

After travelling to Japan and Argentina, the Dark Knight is back in Gotham City for a team-up with Batwoman.

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison continues to unfold his maser bat-plan, casting Bruce Wayne in a role unlike any he's ever filled in his history as Batman. Want to know what he has planned for his next move? Then you won't want to miss a single issue!

BATMAN: EUROPA #1 (OF 4)

Brian Azzarello & Matteo Casali (W); Giuseppe Camuncoli & Jim Lee (A)
(DC NOV100162 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman is on the verge of being taken down by an enemy he cannot defeat: a virus for which there is no cure! And his only possible hope for salvation is The Joker! Can this bizarre team find a cure before time runs out?

Why Should You Care?

Any opportunity to see Jim Lee illustrating the Dark Knight is a can't-miss as far as we're concerned—and Lee's painted work over Camuncoli's layouts should be particularly striking!

BATWOMAN #1

J.H. Williams III & W. Haden Blackman (W); J.H. Williams III (A)
(DC DEC100188 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In her first-ever solo series, Batwoman faces bizarre new challenges in her war against the dark underworld of Gotham and new trials in her personal life as Kate Kane. Who - or what - is stealing children from Gotham's barrio, and for what twisted purpose? Can she train her cousin Bette Kane (a.k.a. Flamebird) as her new sidekick? And why is a certain government agency suddenly taking an interest in her?

Why Should You Care?

Fans have demanded a Batwoman series ever since her solo exploits first appeared in ***Detective Comics***—and gauging from the response last fall's zero issue elicited, interest in the new Batwoman is stronger than ever!

CINDERELLA: FABLES ARE FOREVER #1 (OF 6)

Chris Roberson (W); Shawn McManus (A)
(Vertigo/DC DEC100294 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Someone is killing sorcerers out on the Farm, and all signs point to Cinderella's arch-nemesis from the old days. The only problem is, Cinderella has always believed that her nemesis has been dead for years. So who is the assassin from Cinderella's past - the only person who ever came close to defeating her?

Why Should You Care?

Thanks to high-profile gigs on ***Superman*** and ***Stan Lee's Starborn***—not to mention his sleeper hit Vertigo series *iZombie*—*Chris Roberson* is soaring into star-writer territory. That means a lot of people who overlooked his first ***Cinderella*** series are going to pay a lot more attention to ***Fables Are Forever.***

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE LEGENDS #1

Tony Bedard & Marv Wolfman (W); Howard Porter & Livesay (A)
(DC DEC100165 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Lex Luthor's obsession with destroying Superman reaches a fevered limit when he cuts the ultimate Devil's deal with Brainiac... but with the shake of a hand, has Luthor consigned humanity to genocide? Find out in this comic book inspired by the online game.

Why Should You Care?

The story may not be set in current DC continuity, but that's not going to dampen reader enthusiasm for a biweekly year-long project that features every major player in the DCU!

FANTASTIC FOUR #588

Jonathan Hickman (W); Nick Dragotta (A)
(Marvel DEC100592 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

How do the remaining members of the Fantastic Four, the extended family, other heroes, and prominent villains react to the loss of a legendary FF team member? And how does Franklin Richards deal with the loss? Find out in this moving epilogue.

Why Should You Care?

The death of a founding hero of the Marvel Age of Comics will resonate through the Marvel Universe for months to come—and readers will get their first moving look into the aftermath of that death in this, the final issue of ***The Fantastic Four*** as we know it...

FLASH #10 (FLASHPOINT)

Geoff Johns (W); Francis Manapul (A)
(DC NOV100194 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The new speedster known as Hot Pursuit has arrived on his Cosmic Motorcycle, but what terrible warning has he brought with him? And just what *is* the Flashpoint?...

Why Should You Care?

This issue lays the groundwork for the big ***Flashpoint*** event—the first of *two* big DCU events that *Geoff Johns* is launching in 2011. And you might recall the response to the last DCU event that Johns launched... you know, that ***Blackest Night*** thing...

GARTH ENNIS' JENNIFER BLOOD #1

Garth Ennis (W); Adriano Batista (A)
(Dynamite DEC100864 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Jennifer Blood is a suburban wife and mom by day, and a ruthless vigilante by night! Every day she makes breakfast, takes the kids to school, cleans the house, naps for an hour or two, makes dinner, puts the kids to bed, and kisses her husband goodnight. This suburban punisher is ready to be unleashed in a story that can only be told by the legendary Garth Ennis!

Why Should You Care?

Garth Ennis returns to Punisher territory with this high caliber working mom story. Of course, if Ennis is involved, you *know* that *edgy* and *extreme* are guaranteed.

GREEN LANTERN #63 (WAR OF GL)

Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)
(DC DEC100180 $2.99)

GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD WARRIORS #7 (WAR OF GL)

Peter Tomasi (W); Fernando Pasarin & Cam Smith (A)
(DC DEC100182 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In ***GL #63***, an unearthly alliance is made, Hal Jordan and Sinestro make a difficult sacrifice, and the power of Parallax grows! Then ***GL:EW #7*** brings the conclusion to the battle with Zardor and his Green Lantern Corps reaches its epic conclusion in a tale that will spin directly into the coming war!

Continued on page 6

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU MUST BE ALL RIGHT!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 1-11
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WHAT IS THAT--AND WHY'D IT GRAB MAY PARKER?
IT MUST HAVE SEEN HER WITH ME--
©2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

DC
DRAWING THE LINE AT $2.99

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Why Should You Care?

Remember a few books back, when we mentioned that *Geoff Johns* was laying the groundwork for *two* big DCU events this month? Well, this is the *other* one...

IRON MAN 2.0 #1

Nick Spencer (W); Barry Kitson (A)

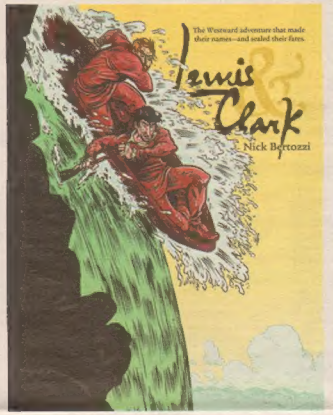
(Marvel DEC100557 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

New mission! New armor! New Iron Man! Lt. Col. James Rhodes is War Machine… the single most advanced one-man weapon of conventional combat. But when Rhodey has to face a mysterious enemy he can't shoot, can't bomb, can't even see, he's going to be forced to evolve… or die.

Why Should You Care?

A-list talent like *Nick Spencer & Barry Kitson* make this a must-read addition to the *Iron Man* franchise.



LEWIS & CLARK GN

Nick Bertozzi (W/A)

(First Second NOV100941 $16.99)

What's the Scoop?

(W/A) Nick Bertozzi In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's 1804 adventurous trek to cross the US and reach the Pacific Ocean is the focus of this original graphic novel. Appointed and funded by President Jefferson himself, well-staffed, lavishly equipped, and led by a cadre of experts (including the famous Sacajawea), the expedition was considered a success almost before it had begun... then reality got in the way!

Why Should You Care?

Nick Bertozzi brings his skill at character-driven history to play with this compelling graphic novel about America's early pioneer heroes—and if you've read ***The Salon*** or ***Houdini—The Handcuff King***, you know he's the man who can pull it off!

ONSLAUGHT #1 (OF 4)

Sean McKeever (W); Filipe Andrade (A)

(Marvel DEC100596 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the Negative Zone, a dark entity of vast power has been waiting for what has seemed like centuries, preparing for the moment when he can finally reach through the tear and once again cast his judgment on humans and mutants alike. That time has at last arrived, and Onslaught is returning to the Marvel Universe—and he can thank Nomad, the girl without a world, for showing him the way back!

Why Should You Care?

One of Marvel's most popular villains is back for his third assault on the Marvel Universe in a series that involves both the Secret Avengers and the Young Allies.

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #1 (OF 5)

Fred Van Lente (W); Wellinton Alves (A)

(Marvel DEC100594 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Danny Rand thought he was through with superheroic combat... but fate had other plans for him. He's back in action with the new Power Man, Victor Alvarez, and their first case involved Luke Cage and Danny Rand's former secretary Jennie Royce, imprisoned for a murder she didn't commit… or did she?

Why Should You Care?

One of the most famous—and unlikely—duos of the 80s returns in this *Shadowland* spinoff limited series. Sure, it's not the same Power Man... and *close* is better than nothing at all!

SPONGEBOB COMICS #1

James Kochalka, Hilary Barta, Graham Annable, Gregg Schigiel, Jacob Chabot, & others (W/A)

(United Plankton DEC100801 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Yes, Spongebob gets his own series—and these are original stories, not screen-cap retellings of animated episodes! In the first issue, SpongeBob has a recurring nightmare about his favorite cereal; Squidward introduces music to the Krusty Krab; and Mermaid Man is freaked out by a fan who won't... stop... staring!

Why Should You Care?

The same folks responsible for *The Simpsons* comics call on an all-star talent list, including some of indy comics' best-known creators, to bring *Spongebob* to comics at last!

STAR TREK: INFESTATION #1 (OF 2)

Scott & David Tipton (W); Casey Maloney (A)

(IDW DEC100332 $3.99)

STAR TREK: INFESTATION #2 (OF 2)

Scott & David Tipton (W); Casey Maloney (A)

(IDW DEC100335 $3.99)

TRANSFORMERS: INFESTATION #1 (OF 2)

Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning (W); Nick Roche (A)

(IDW DEC100337 $3.99)

TRANSFORMERS: INFESTATION #2 (OF 2)

Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning (W); Nick Roche (A)

(IDW DEC100337 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A routine visit to a colony world takes a horrifying turn when Admiral Kirk, Mr. Spock and Dr. McCoy find themselves surrounded by hordes of the undead! Then the Transformers have to fight off not just Galvatron, but also the zombie horde spreading through Las Vegas!

Why Should You Care?

IDW's zombiefied crossover continues into two of the company's highest-profile franchises, with ***G.I. Joe*** and ***Ghostbusters*** crossovers still to come! (And you know you're as curious as we are to find out why Transformers are worried about zombies!)

TRUE BLOOD: TAINTED #1

Marc Andreyko & Michael McMillian (W); Joe Corroney (A)

(IDW DEC100367 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Sookie Stackhouse's world is turned upside down when contaminated bottles of Tru Blood cause the Southern Vampire population to go berserk! Looks like those growing human/vampire tensions aren't going to simmer down anytime soon! But who (or what) is behind the bad 'Blood'?

Why Should You Care?

Don't want to wait until the summer for the next season of ***True Blood***? Well, thanks to these superbly done comics, you don't have to!

ULTIMATE AVENGERS VS NEW ULTIMATES #1 (OF 6)

Mark Millar (W); Leinil Yu (A)

(Marvel DEC100544 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The two most powerful super teams in the Ultimate Universe collide in the brawl of the century! A misunderstanding has brought these two colossal teams to blows, and their battle may just spell the end for the Ultimate world!

Why Should You Care?

As if superteam slugfests aren't reason enough, this six-part crossover series is also an integral part of the "Death of Spider-Man" story arc.

Collected Cool: February's Best Reprint Volumes

AGE OF REPTILES OMNIBUS VOL 1

(Dark Horse OCT100040 $24.99)

If you were ever fascinated by dinosaurs, then you're sure to love this hefty anthology that collects *Ricardo Delgado's* ***Age of Reptiles, Age of Reptiles: The Hunt,*** and ***Age of Reptiles: The Journey.***

BATMAN: HUSH UNWRAPPED DELUXE ED HC

(DC OCT100261 $39.99)

You've never seen ***Hush*** like this until now. This amazing hardcover presents *Jim Lee's* stunning artwork in pencil form, with lettering and in black and white.

CAPTAIN AMERICA BY JACK KIRBY OMNIBUS HC

(Marvel SEP100687 $74.99)

It may not be *Jack Kirby's* finest Captain America work (that's coming up in another Omnibus in a couple of months), but this collection of 70s tales is a must-have for Kirby completists, as it collects his work from ***Captain America #s 193-214, Cap Annual #s 3 & 4,*** and ***Cap's Greatest Bicentennial Battles.***

MARVEL MASTERWORKS ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD HC VOL 1

(Marvel AUG100669 $64.99)

Collects the entire eleven-issue run of the hard-to-find Atlas war series ***Battlefield,*** featuring work by *Paul Reinman, Russ Heath, Joe Maneely, Gene Colan, Bill Everett,* and many more.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS HC VOL 1

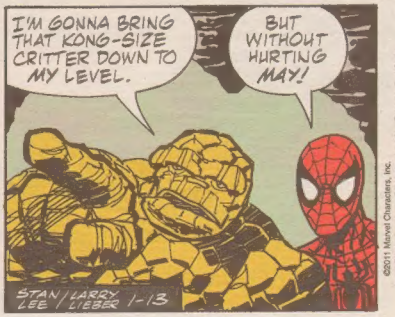
(Marvel SEP100681 $59.99)

Golden Age enthusiasts will be thrilled by this collection of hard-to-find second-tier Marvel 1940s comics. The first volume collects ***Mystic #s 1-4,*** featuring Flexo the Rubber Robot; the hero from beyond the grave-the Blue Blaze; the Dynamic Man, Master Mind Excello, the invisible Dr. Gade, Dakor the Magician, Zara of the Jungle, the Space Rangers, Hercules, the devil-possessed Black Widow, and more.

SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY HC VOL 2

(DC OCT100271 $39.99)

Grant Morrison's first major multi-title superhero saga is presented once again in the order in which it should be read. This volume includes ***Mister Miracle #s 1-4, Bulleteer #s 1-4, Zatanna #4, Klarion #4, Frankenstein #s 1-4,*** and ***Seven Soldiers of Victory #1.***



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VANGUARD'S FRAZETTA CLASSICS HC VOL 1: JOHNNY COMET

(Vanguard DEC101101 $49.99)

This upscale presentation of Frank Frazetta's famous newspaper-strip masterpiece is shot from Frazetta's personal artist's proofs, making this the best possible edition of this adventure series.

Hot Commodities: February's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BETA RAY BILL STATUE

(Bowen NOV101532 $200.00)

This 16" tall statue, sculpted by *Jason Smith*, brings to life Walt Simonson's cosmic equine hero.

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE STATUE: GREEN LANTERN

(DC Direct MAY100310 $80.00)

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE STATUE: SUPERMAN

(DC Direct MAY100311 $80.00)

Jim Lee's striking design art for the DCU MMORPG is the inspiration for this line of affordably-priced statues.

HEROES OF THE DCU BLACK HAND BUST

(DC Direct JUL100269 $70.00)

Blackest Night continues in minibust form as *Ivan Reis* supplies the designs for this year-long series of sculptures featuring some of the highest-profile heroes and villains from the landmark limited series.

JLA TROPHY ROOM: SINESTRO BATTERY PROP REPLICA

(DC Direct MAR100354 $350.00)

The latest addition to DC Direct's line of high-quality replicas, the full-sized resin ***Sinestro Power Battery Prop Replica*** is 11.5" high x 7.25" wide x 10" and is packaged with a power ring.

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ART OF GEORGE PEREZ HC

(IDW DEC100415 $49.99)

Acclaimed editor *Joe Pruett* assembles the ultimate *George Pérez* art book, spotlighting the superstar's illustrative career—and Pérez himself supplies the commentary!

JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR #56

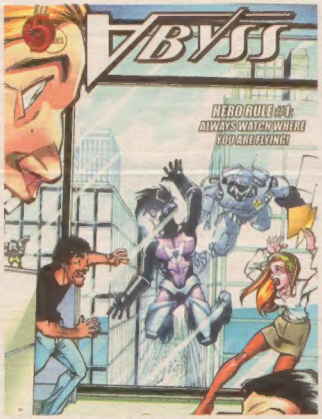
(TwoMorrows DEC101149 $10.95)

This issue spotlights Kirby's "Unfinished Sagas"—series, stories, and arcs Kirby never got to properly finish.

MODERN MASTERS SC VOL 25: JEFF SMITH

(TwoMorrows DEC101098 $15.95)

The creator of ***Bone*** is the focus of this ***Modern Masters*** volume, which includes a lengthy interview, a retrospective, and oodles of previously-unseen art.



Check 'Em Out: Books You *Should* Be Reading

ABYSS: FAMILY ISSUES #1 (OF 4)

(Red 5 DEC101036 $3.50)

Eric Hoffman took over his father's fortune, lair, robot, and Abyss costume, but he can't shake the super-villain legacy. Now, however, it's the scandal on his mother's side that's going to rock the hero community.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #654.1

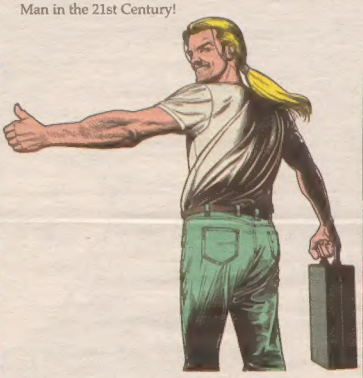
(Marvel DEC100573 $2.99)

This Point One Initiative jumping-on tale introduces a new Spider-Man, bonded to the dangerous and powerful Venom symbiote, who is showing Peter Parker up in the hero department.

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #500.1

(Marvel DEC100562 $2.99)

Marvel's "Point One" Initiative offers another jumping-on tale as Tony Stark takes his first steps into the future! Learn what it means to be Iron Man in the 21st Century!



JACK OF FABLES #50

(Vertigo/DC DEC100295 $4.99)

Does Jack Frost slay Jack Dragon? Does Jack Dragon eat his own kid? Will the Page Sisters rebuild the Great Library? Will Gary finally get to sing a show tune on Broadway? The answers to all these questions can be found in this oversized issue.

JERICHO REDUX

(IDW DEC100373 $7.99)

JERICHO SEASON 3 #4 (OF 6)

(IDW DEC100371 $3.99)

The first three issues of the out-of-print Devil's Due series are collected in this affordably-priced ***Redux***. Then IDW continues the ***Jericho*** limited series, picking up where ***Redux*** leaves off. Under interrogation by his allied States captors, terror mastermind John Smith reveals his story: a full account of the motives, methods, and betrayals that resulted in the destruction of twenty-three American cities

ORIGINAL JOHNSON GN VOL 2

(IDW DEC100421 $19.99)

Trevor Von Eeden continues his graphic novel biography of Jack Johnson, the first African-American heavyweight champion of the world.

OUTSIDERS #37 (DOOMSDAY)

(DC DEC100186 $2.99)

"Reign of Doomsday," which began in January's ***Steel*** #1, continues as the Eradicator struggles in battle against the murder-machine known as Doomsday! It's a fight to the death with the lives of Geo-Force, Katana, the Looker, Halo and the Olympian all hanging in the balance!

WOLVERINE #5.1

(Marvel DEC100612 $2.99)

Marvel's third February Point One Initiative jumping-on tale features a birthday celebration when Wolverine's new girlfriend invites X-Men and Avengers alike to a Logan's surprise party.

twitter.com/csnsider

IT'S WORKIN', WEBHEAD! WE'RE TRIPPIN' 'IM!
AND HE'S DROPPING MAY!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER I-14
GOT YOU!
THANK YOU, YOUNG MAN.
stanzfanz @ aol.com
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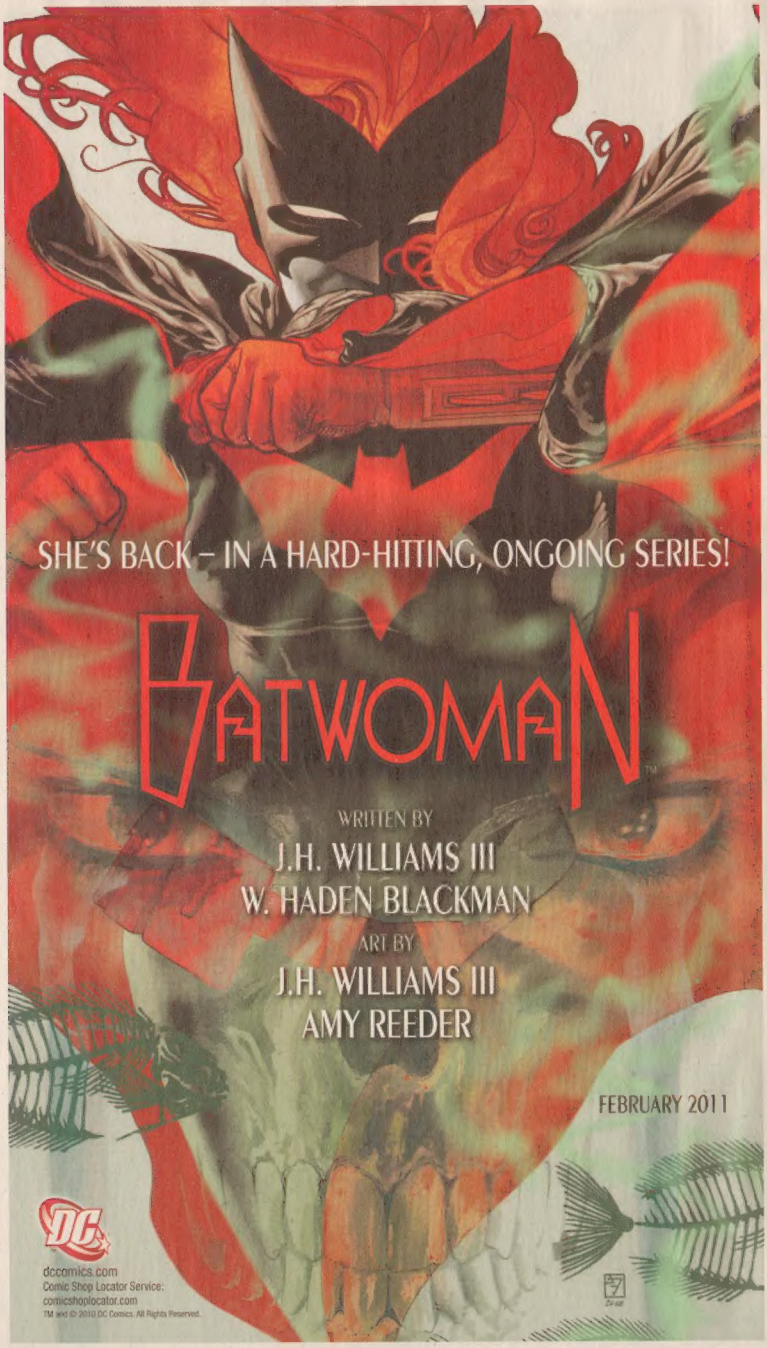
PERHAPS YOU'RE NOT QUITE THE SINISTER CREATURE THAT JONAH JAMESON'S PAPER SAYS YOU ARE!
C'MON, MAN! WE GOTTA TACKLE THAT MONSTER AGAIN!
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, BEN GRIMM. LOOK!
BAD GORGONGANTHA!
YEEEP
SLAP!
IF I TOLD ANYONE TOPSIDE 'BOUT THAT...
...I'D GET MY OWN PERSONAL PADDED CELL!

Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!


SHE'S BACK – IN A HARD-HITTING, ONGOING SERIES!
BATWOMAN
WRITTEN BY
J.H. WILLIAMS III
W. HADEN BLACKMAN
ART BY
J.H. WILLIAMS III
AMY REEDER
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